



November 8, 2011

House Energy and Technology Committee
State of Michigan

Benefiting 1,000 Michigan Families *and* Michigan's Economy

Since 2005, Michigan Energy Options, a nonprofit, has run LIEEF programs that have improved the lives of 1,000 low-income families across the state. Our programs provide weatherization improvements and install high-efficient furnaces and appliances. These programs rely on products and services from Michigan companies and nonprofits. These programs rely on Michigan workers to implement them. These programs have triple bottom line benefits to Michigan.

Our LIEEF Programs:

- Create new jobs and put people back to work through job retraining;
- Expand the energy efficiency private business sector;
- Utilize Michigan contractors, who are then able to grow their small businesses with new personnel, equipment and service areas;
- Circulate more money in communities through the avoided-cost savings of energy efficiency;
- Improve the health of residents and the state's environment with the removal and recycling of old furnaces and appliances, which contain hazardous materials such as mercury;
- Reduce fossil fuel-based energy usage, which include many social, economic and environmental benefits.

The Percentages

- 75% of our program budgets are used to employ Michigan contractors.
- Michigan Energy Options' indirect cost to implement programs is 15%.
- Homes served in this program routinely realize a 20-40% reduction in their energy costs.
- 50% of homes inducted into our 2011 program had no working heating system.
- Our work has benefited constituents in 100% of our 15 U.S. House Districts; we have worked in more than 60% of our 83 state counties, including many in the Upper Peninsula and northeast Lower Peninsula where rural poverty is severe and underserved.

A Few Testimonials

"I want to thank you for the new furnace you gave my children and me. That is the best thing that has happened to us."

"For warm days and nights and the new furnace that makes it happen. For cold milk, and food kept fresh from spoiling. Thanks for the new refrigerator. Our family is truly grateful. It could and would not have happened without your company."

"Words cannot express how grateful I am to you all. You all inspire me to help other people when I can. If I can do anything for you, just let me know."

Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm

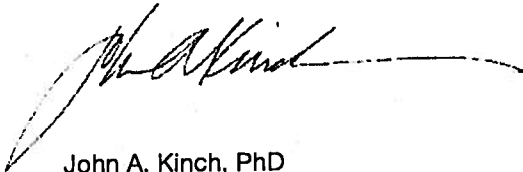
Michigan Energy Options was a founding member of the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm. In these months since the July 21, 2011 appellate decision, we have worked with the Coalition to fashion the appropriate response to the loss of this funding—funding that has the dual benefit of helping those most in need and stimulating Michigan's new energy economy, which must be based on being more energy efficient throughout all sectors in our state.

A Legislative Fix

We support legislative efforts to reinstate LIEEF to address the impending crisis of this heating season. We also strongly support the energy efficiency component of this fund and any future legislation as the essential means to providing energy savings, and multiple ancillary benefits, to all Michigan residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John A. Kinch, PhD
Executive Director

About MEO

For more than 30 years, Michigan Energy Options (formerly Urban and Northern Options) has helped more than a million people in our state conserve energy, save money, adopt renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gases and lead more sustainable lives. We are a team of diverse expertise: PhD, MBA, LEED accredited, HERS and BPI trained, licensed contractors, seasoned environmental and energy experts, project and financial managers – and practitioners for a greener Michigan.